

Gap Year Scheme

Equipping God's people for works of service to build up the body of Christ

The **Gap Year Scheme** at St Mary's aims to equip disciples of Jesus to serve his church. We want to give people opportunities to get hands-on experience of a busy town-centre church, serve those in the church and the local area, whilst looking to grow to become disciples of Jesus Christ and be equipped for serving the church wherever you may end up in the future.

Core Components

Character

Through the supervision of a member of church staff, mentoring from a member of the church family, and week-by-week fellowship of the wider church family we long primarily for each Gap Years student to grow in their love of Jesus Christ and their personal godliness as they look to follow him in everyday life.

Training

Each Gap Year student will have the opportunity to be part of a regional Ministry Training Course, as well as receiving internal training from church staff to grow biblical and theological knowledge as well as skills for ministry.

Ministry

Ministry literally means service. The Gap Year Scheme gives individuals opportunities to experience different areas of ministry at St Mary's by serving in various capacities. There may be opportunities to focus in a particular area of ministry whilst also experiencing the wide-ranging nature of church life. Opportunities to serve will include the practical ministry necessary for the day-to-day running of the church as well as hands-on involvement with various groups.

Structure of the programme

Character

- Regular supervision by a member of the church staff—helping you to reflect on all you are doing and prepare you for what is coming up.

- Monthly mentoring by a member of the church family—helping you to reflect on the challenges and joys of being a Christian and what it looks like to continually grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Being an active member of the church family—attending weekly church services and being an active part of a midweek home group and other midweek church gatherings.
- Be committed to regular personal discipleship, through Bible reading and prayer.

Training

- Attending a regional Ministry Trainee Course one day a week (such as the South Central Ministry Training Course).
- Receive internal biblical, theological and ministry training, as well as practical leadership and management training.
- Receive regular feedback and training as part of the regular ministry experiences.

Ministry

- Serve practically in different areas to help with the smooth running of various church activities.
- Opportunities to experience the wide-ranging ministries of a town centre church, including toddler groups, children's ministry, youth ministry, young adults, men's and women's ministry, retired and elderly groups, and the Town Chaplaincy.
- A focus on a particular ministry area of interest.
- Involvement in Sunday services (as interest and gifting allow).
- Possible opportunities to teach in one or more ministry areas, with regular feedback to help development.
- Serve on a summer camp.
- Assist with preparation for and serve on St Mary's Summer Holiday Club.
- Opportunity to serve in specific practical areas of interest or gifting (e.g. technical, music, social media, communications etc.).

Other details

- Typical workdays are three days a week (including evenings, Sunday and Friday) and an additional training day.
- St Mary's will cover the costs of your training, travel expenses, other church expenses, and conference, summer camp and overseas mission trip costs.
- Regarding accommodation, the expectation is that you would stay at your current accommodation.
- For general enquiries or if you have further questions please contact the St Mary's Church office (info@stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk).
- To apply please fill in the application form and return to info@stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk.
- **If you are shortlisted for an interview, you will be required to complete a Church of England Confidential Declaration Form.**

- **Any offer is conditional upon receipt of a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) report and proof of the right to work in the UK.**

There is an occupational requirement that the post-holder be a Christian.